

Aloha from Governor Linda Lingle

presented to the

HONORABLE JUAN N. BABAUTA
GOVERNOR, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS
AUGUST 16, 2005

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I send greetings of aloha to the Honorable Governor Babauta and the citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your kind hospitality in receiving our delegate from Hawai'i, Mr. Nelson Befitel.

Hawai'i is linked geographically, culturally and economically with our fellow U.S. Pacific Islands, so it is critical that we work together to foster partnerships that address our common regional concerns. Rejoining the Pacific Basin Development Council will enable Hawai'i to take a leadership role alongside our Pacific neighbors to determine the future of the region.

The people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawai'i share island cultural values and lifestyle. The exchange of ideas and camaraderie between our islands will build friendships; promote travel, and bridge relationships. As we look to the future, there are many opportunities for all of us to work together and continue developing strong environmental, business and economic ties.

This conference will provide a valuable opportunity to promote the bonds of friendship, cultural exchange and goodwill among our neighbors in the global community, as many Hawai'i residents and visitors proudly trace their ancestral roots to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

We thank you for the honor to participate in your conference, and as we say in Hawai'i, "e komo mai", please come to visit soon and experience our famous "*aloha spirit*" firsthand.

Aloha,

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i